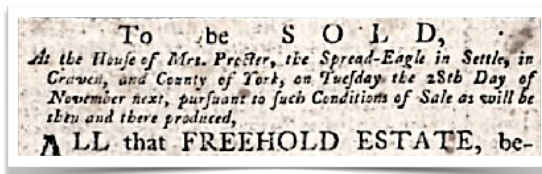


Robert Atkinson, innkeeper at the Spread Eagle Inn for over 30 yrs

The Spread Eagle coaching inn was in Kirkgate, just above what is now Victoria Hall.

Robert Atkinson, born in 1775, and Margaret Rylands/Rylance married in Kendal in 1797 although Margaret was from Croston, near Preston. They moved to Settle to become innkeepers at the Spread Eagle Inn. The inn dated from 1734 when Thomas Proctor converted several buildings. One auction took place in 1775 'at the house of Mrs Procter, the Spread Eagle'[6].



Thomas' grandson was Thomas Procter, a 'noted painter and sculptor', and a heritage blue plaque on the wall of the building today is dedicated to him. The Procters ceased trading in 1803 and it's possible Robert and Margaret took over from then.



The Spread Eagle was a coaching inn, providing rest and lodging for travellers. The 1828 trade directory tells us the 'Defiance' left the Spread Eagle for Manchester every Monday morning at 11.30 and every Thursday and Saturday morning at 6, travelling through Gisburn, Burnley and Bury. Being located so close to the Market Place Robert and Margaret will have had good trade.

Several auctions and coroner's hearings took place at the 'Mr Robert Atkinson's Spread Eagle Inn' including the sale of Armitstead Hall in 1819 [1]. Settle was described as '*a good Market Town on the great North Road, through Craven, where there is Daily Post and Coach. The Neighbourhood is genteel, the roads remarkably good, in a fine, healthy Sporting Country and the Estate is well worth the attention of any Gentleman of Fortune as a Residence, or as an investment for Money.*' Some things don't change!

Being an innkeeper was not an easy life. In December 1842, when Robert was 67, several men including John Slinger and Joseph Hudson 'were behaving in such a riotous manner at the Spread Eagle, and proceeded

DESIRABLE RESIDENCE and VALUABLE ESTATE.

NEAR SETTLE, IN CRAVEN, YORKSHIRE.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

At Mr. Robert Atkinson's, the Spread Eagle Inn, in Settle, on Saturday, the 9th day of October next, at four o'clock in the Afternoon, either together or in Lots,

ALL that capital spacious Stone-built MAN-SION-HOUSE, called ARMITSTEAD, late the Residence of John Foster, Esquire, deceased. It consists of a

Armitstead is two Miles from Settle, a good Market Town on the great North Road, through Craven, where there is a Daily Post and Coach. The Neighbourhood is genteel, the Roads remarkably good, in a fine, healthy Sporting Country, and the Estate is well worth the attention of any Gentleman of Fortune as a Residence, or as an Investment for Money.

Eagle Inn, at Settle, last Thursday night. The prisoners, especially Monk, were behaving in such a riotous manner at the Spread Eagle, and proceeded to such an extremity that it became necessary to send for the constable. Mr. Seed attended, and after he had cleared the house, a stone was thrown at his head and rendered him insensible for 24 hours. The stone was not thrown by any of the prisoners. The Magistrates of Settle considered the charge of so serious a nature, that they bound the prisoners over to appear at the sessions. They were now before the Bench, and having considered to plead guilty to the charge, he was willing to believe they were sorry for what they had done, and under the circumstances he was willing that they should enter into their own recognizances to appear at any time when called on to receive judgment.—Mr. Pickering, who was retained for the defence, agreed, and the Bench adopted the suggestion.

RIOT AT SETTLE.—John Monk, weaver, Giggleswick, John Hadgate, wheelwright, and Joseph Hudson, labourer, both of the same place, together with John Slinger, a weaver, resident in Settle, were charged with riotous behaviour at the Spread

to such an extremity that it became necessary to send for the constable' [5].

In 1845, Robert hosted an inquest into the death of elderly **Henry Roberts** who had worked as a servant for the Dawson sisters for many years at Marshfield, next door to the Spread Eagle. Henry suddenly died in the grounds of Marshfield from 'a fit of apoplexy' which is likely to have been a heart attack. [2]

In Tithe records of 1844, Robert was recorded as owner of the inn, neighbouring stables, garden, cottages, plus 18 acres of land. In addition, he rented a further 10 acres of land.

Robert and Margaret died within two months of each other in 1850 and the Spread Eagle property was sold.

**SPREAD EAGLE INN AND PREMISES,
IN SETTLE, FOR SALE,
WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION,
TO BE SOLD
BY AUCTION,**

At the SPREAD EAGLE INN, in SETTLE, in the County of York, on TUESDAY, the 2nd day of JULY, 1850, at Seven o'Clock in the Evening; either altogether or in the following or such Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, and subject to such Conditions as shall be there produced,—

LOT 1.

ALL that Well-Accustomed and Valuable FREEHOLD INN, and MARKET-HOUSE, known as the "SPREAD EAGLE," with the spacious Yard, Stabling, Shippens, Brewhouse, and other suitable Outbuildings thereto adjoining, all situate on the North side of Spread Eagle Street, in Settle aforesaid, and lately the Property of and in the occupation of Robert Atkinson, deceased.—Also, all those TWO FREEHOLD STABLES adjoining upon each other, with the Hay Loft over the same, situate on the south side of Spread Eagle Street, in Settle aforesaid, and lately in the occupation of the said R. Atkinson.—And also, all that FREEHOLD COTTAGE or TENEMENT, situate on the south side of Spread Eagle Street, in Settle aforesaid, now occupied by Mrs Carr, together with the Stable and Coach-Houses underneath the same, lately occupied by the said R. Atkinson.

LOT 2.

All those THREE freehold COTTAGES or TENEMENTS, with the Yard and Conveniences thereto belonging, situate on the south side of Spread Eagle Street, in Settle aforesaid, and now in the respective occupations of T. Moorby, John Marchbank, and S. Preston.

INQUEST.—SETTLE.—On Tuesday last, an inquest was held on the body of Henry Roberts, aged 76 years, before Thos. Brown, Esq., coroner, for the West Riding of the county of York, at the house of Mr Robert Atkinson, Spread Eagle Inn, Settle. It appeared in evidence, that the deceased had lived in the service of the Misses Dawson, for many years; and that on Sunday night last, about 7 o'clock in the evening, he went out, and not returning, about 9 o'clock Mrs Herin, the house-keeper, and Alice Slater, a house-maid, went out to look for him, and found him in an out house in a kneeling position. Dr. Burrow, of Settle, was immediately sent for, and was on the spot in a few minutes, and gave it as his opinion, that the individual must have been dead above an hour, and that he died from a fit of apoplexy. A verdict in accordance with the above evidence was returned, that Henry Roberts was found dead, and that he died from natural causes.

LOT 3.

All that other FREEHOLD COTTAGE, or TENEMENT, situate on the South Side of Spread Eagle Street, in Settle aforesaid, now in the occupation of John Farraday.

The Land-Tax on the whole of the Property is Redeemed.

The Purchaser of the INN may have the option of taking any part of the Fixtures and Furniture at a Valuation.

There is a Market held at Settle every Tuesday, and a Cattle Fair every alternate Monday, and from the situation of the above Property it possesses peculiar advantages for Investment.

Also, at the same time and place, will be Sold (without reserve), the HAY GRASS growing in the following Fields, lately occupied by the said Robert Atkinson, and the Fog and Winter-Entage thereof, until the usual times of Entry next Spring, viz.—

Aldbeck Ing, in Settle, containing..	2	2	17
High Brows in Do. "	1	3	12
Sinegram Ing, Rathmell, "	6	2	28

The Premises may be viewed on application at the Spread Eagle Inn, and further Particulars obtained at the Offices of

Mr GEO. HARTLEY, Solicitor, Settle.

Settle, 26th June, 1850.

The 'inn and market house' had a spacious yard, stabling, shippens (cowsheds) and brewhouse. On the other side of Kirkgate were two further stables and hay loft, and a coach house with a cottage above it occupied by Mrs Carr. There were several other cottages included in the auction and at least eight acres of land. He was a wealthy and busy man [2].

In memory of Robert Atkinson of Settle, innkeeper died 11th April 1850 aged 75 years. Also of Margaret his wife died 18th June 1850 aged 73 years, C15.



Robert and Margaret died without children of their own [2]. Upon their death newspaper adverts asked nephews and nieces to provide proof of identification to claim their estate. Margaret had numerous nieces and nephews, most of them belonging to her half-brother John.

The Spread Eagle grounds were bought by **Thomas Brigg**, the governor of Giggleswick workhouse. He leased the back portion of the inn to three tar and turpentine distillers from Hull who traded as the 'Vegetable Gas Light Company' to provide gas lighting for the town but the venture was unsuccessful. The first successful gas lighting was installed in 1857.

At the time of the census in March 1851 landlord **William Duckett** of Ingleton had a lodger who was a possible relation of Robert and Margaret – **Robert Atkinson**, a painter from Preston. He was lodging with several other painters, perhaps assessing the prospects for trade in Settle. If so, this was unsuccessful as he returned to Preston.

In 1852, the license of the Spread Eagle was surrendered. It became a Temperance Hotel run by **John Bordley**, a Primitive Methodist and talented artist/photographer with his first wife Esther Wellock.

In 1816 a slice of land was taken from the lower end of the Spread Eagle property to build the first National School of Settle. In 1853 the school and a bit more of the Spread Eagle's land was bought by *Revd John Robinson* in order to build the Music Hall, now Victoria Hall. The 'new' school was built in Upper Settle. The maps of Kirkgate in 1847 and 1890s (after the railway) show the Spread Eagle Inn buildings (X). The old School building is replaced by Victoria Hall. The Friends' Meeting House remains (X). Many other buildings were also added.

TO THE NEPHEWS AND NEICES OF
ROBERT ATKINSON AND MARGARET ATKINSON,
HIS WIFE, BOTH DECEASED.

THE NEPHEWS and NEICES of ROBERT ATKINSON, formerly of KENDAL, in the County of Westmorland, and lately of the Spread Eagle Inn, in SETTLE, in the County of York, Innkeeper, deceased, and also the Nephews and Nieces of MARGARET ATKINSON, deceased, the late wife of the said ROBERT ATKINSON, (formerly MARGARET RYLAND, Spinster,) are desired to forward to me, the undersigned **GEORGE HARTLEY**, of Settle, in the County of York, Solicitor, one of the Executors under the Will of the said MARGARET ATKINSON, the Registers of the Marriage of their respective Parents, and also Registers of the Baptisms of such Nephews and Nieces who were living on the 18th day of JUNE, 1850, the day of the death of the said MARGARET ATKINSON, in order that a Division of the Proceeds of the Real and Personal Estate of the said ROBERT ATKINSON and MARGARET ATKINSON, may take place amongst such Nephews and Nieces as directed by the Will of the said MARGARET ATKINSON.

GEORGE HARTLEY,

Solicitor, Settle, Yorkshire.

Settle, June 12th, 1851.



The Inns of Victorian Settle:

NI – New Inn on ‘New Road’, now Station Road

JA – Joiner’s Arms, later the Commercial Inn

GL, ONM, RO – Golden Lion, (Old) Naked Man and Royal Oak, as now

SE – Spread Eagle Inn on Kirkgate

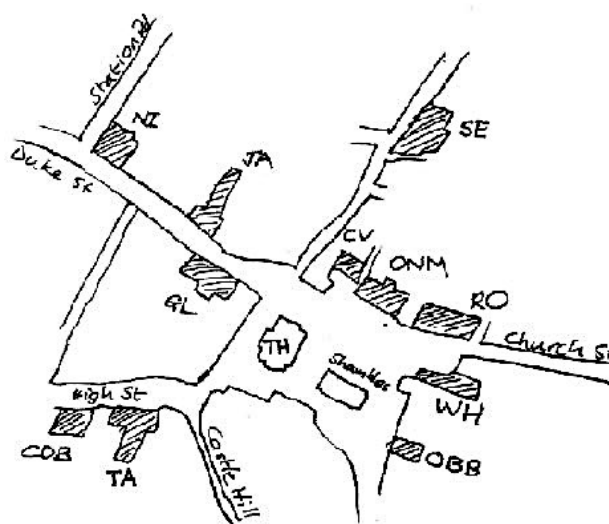
CV – Crown Inn/Vaults

WH – White Horse

OBB – Obadiah Bayne’s Beerhouse - the tiny house

TA – Talbot Arms, as now

CDB – Charles Duckett’s beerhouse, now the King William guesthouse.



Agnes Atkinson, widow of a billiard table proprietor

In affectionate remembrance of Agnes Atkinson who died Feb 20th 1881, Aged 80 years, C10

Agnes Brocklebank was born on 14th October, 1798, in Hawkshead near Windermere in the Lake District. She married John Atkinson of Giggleswick in 1818. They settled in Carlisle and brought up at least ten children. It’s possible that Agnes’ husband John was a nephew of Robert Atkinson (above).



John was the innkeeper of the Blue Bell Inn in Carlisle. For some reason, in their 50s, John and the family moved to Newcastle Upon Tyne, where John proudly announced that he had purchased a new billiard table [3]. Billiards had been popular for centuries, and perhaps this brought him new punters?

BILLIARDS.
JOHN ATKINSON begs to inform his Friends and the Public that he has purchased one of Messrs Harrolds and Watt's first-class Tables; and at the same time begs to return his sincere Thanks for the very liberal support he has received during the time he has been in Newcastle, and which, at all times, will be his study to deserve.
 14, Market Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sept. 23, 1860.

This obviously went well as John became a ‘billiard table proprietor’. By the time he died in 1866 he had an estate of £800 – a fortune. Agnes went to live with her daughter Mary Ann Grace (Smith) in Sheffield. For some reason when Mary Ann Grace’s husband John died, Agnes, Mary Ann and another widowed daughter Alice (Temple) came to live on Prospect Terrace in Settle, with a servant Mary Ann Dickinson – perhaps there were Atkinson family links in Settle?

1881 DEATHS in the District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>									
When and Where Died:	Name and Surname:	Sex:	Age:	Rank or Profession:	Cause of Death:	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant:	When Registered:	Signature of Registrar:	
<i>Twentieth February 1881 Settle A.S.D.</i>	<i>Agnes Atkinson</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>80 years</i>	<i>Widow of John Atkinson a Gentleman</i>	<i>Heart Disease Apoplexy Day before yesterday</i>	<i>M. A. Dickinson Present at death Settle.</i>	<i>Twenty second February 1881</i>	<i>William Field Book Registrar</i>	

Settle Graveyard Project

Agnes died on 20 February 1881, aged 82 (but recorded as 80), of morbid cordis (unspecified heart condition) and apoplexy from which she had suffered for 1 day and 6 hours. Their servant Mary Ann Dickinson was present at her death. Her death was certified by **Charles William Buck** and registered by registrar **William Field Hook**.

Daughter Mary Ann Grace spent the rest of her life 'housekeeping' for her husband's brother **Robert Smith** back in Sheffield. (Until 1904 it was illegal to marry your brother-in-law after your husband had died.) Widowed daughter Alice lived with her son **Alfred** in Everton. Alfred had married **Alice Capstick**, the daughter of **William Capstick** the Settle blacksmith whose grave is nearby in *grave AncC8*.

John's sister **Alice Atkinson** had married **James Croasdale** who worked his way up from being an errand boy, then butler, to the land agent for Lord Ribblesdale at his mansion at Gisburn Park [4]. It's likely that Alice also helped out with work on the estate. James' funeral was attended by Lord Ribblesdale, Henry Alcock (of the Craven bank) and *Dixon Robinson*, amongst others.

DEATH.—On Friday last, at Glaburn, **James Croasdale, Esq.**, confidential steward and estate agent to the Lord Ribblesdale. The deceased commenced his career as an errand boy in the service of the present Lord Ribblesdale's father, afterwards became his butler, and lastly advanced to the situation which he held prior to his death. His remains were deposited in the grave on Tuesday last, in the presence of Lord Ribblesdale, **Henry Alcock, Esq.**, **Dixon Robinson, Esq.**, and numerous other friends, and a large number of Lord Ribblesdale's tenantry. While the funeral cortège passed through the village, the shops and other places of business were closed.

...JR...



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. Life stories can be found on dalescommunityarchives.org.uk, 'settle graveyard project'. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

Settle Graveyard Project

Newspaper cuttings by kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Westmorland Gazette, 2 – Kendal Mercury, 3 – Newcastle Daily Chronicle, 4 – Preston Chronicle, 5 – Bradford Observer, 6 – Leeds Mercury

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.